

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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May 20, 2003

FROM: MARCEL TURNER, Director
Human Resources

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH THE SILLAS LAW FIRM, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RECOMMENDATION: Approve contract with The Sillas Law Firm, Attorneys at Law to provide legal services for public liability cases from May 20, 2003 to June 5, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On October 3, 2000, the Board approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public liability legal defense work. On June 5, 2001, the Board approved three-year contracts with eighteen firms to provide this work. On March 18, 2003, the department was advised that one of the eighteen firms, Ochoa and Sillas, Attorneys at Law, changed their name to The Sillas Law Firm, Attorneys at Law. A new contract is required because the firm changed its name, address, and obtained a new federal tax identification number.

This action will enable these attorneys to provide uninterrupted defense work on a large percentage of the County's employment liability and public liability cases. The new contract with The Sillas Law Firm, Attorneys at Law will have the same provisions and expiration date as the prior contract. Either party has the right to terminate this contract with 30 days notice.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Michael Sachs, Chief Deputy County Counsel) on April 22, 2003 and the County Administrative Office (Daniel R. Kopp, Administrative Analyst) on May 12, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item will not result in increased costs nor change the any other provisions of the original agreement.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item, concurs with the department's proposal, and recommends this action. Approval of this item will enable the County to continue utilizing the services of these attorneys to defend new and ongoing public and employment liability cases.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Pamela H. Thompson, Risk Manager, 386-8620

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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